

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR NEA/RA-PALMER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO, TU
SUBJ: CENTO

REF: PALMER TO MACOMBER LETTERS OF JULY 8 AND AUGUST 4

1. I SHARE YOUR NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE SUGGESTION FOR A GRADUAL U.S. ABANDONING OF CENTO SHOULD THE NEW U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. I PERSONALLY WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A COURSE. IT HAS BEEN A NUMBER OF YEARS, HOWEVER, SINCE THERE HAS BEEN AN IN-DEPTH USG REVIEW OF CENTO'S USEFULNESS AND AN APPRAISAL OF THE VALUE OF CURRENT U.S. ROLE VIS-A-VIS CENTO. MY GUESS IS THAT SUCH AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW WOULD LIKELY END UP RECOMMENDING THAT WE KEEP ON GOING WITH CENTO ABOUT AS WE HAVE. I THINK, NEVERTHELESS, THAT IT WOULD BE A TIMELY IDEA AND CONSISTENT WITH ORDERLY GOVERNMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE POLICY PLANNING STAFF TO BE ASKED TO MAKE SUCH A REVIEW.

2. I AM LOOKING INTO THE CENTO PERSONNEL MATTER AND WILL SEND YOU MY THOUGHTS ON IT SHORTLY.

3. WARM REGARDS.
MACOMBER

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